

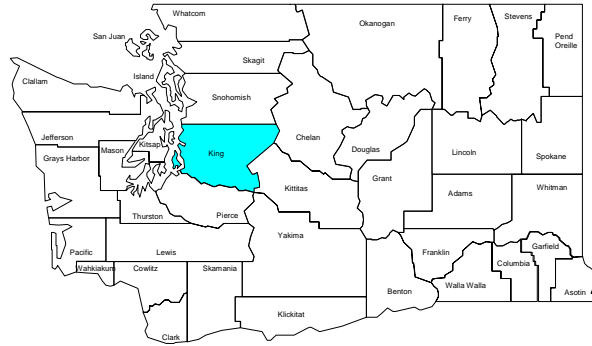
## Section 3: Regional Profile

### ***Geography***

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Located on Puget Sound in Washington State and covering 2,130 square miles, King County is nearly twice as large as the average county in the United States.

King County is geographically diverse, extending from Puget Sound in the west to 8,000-foot Mount Daniel at the Cascade crest to the east. Except for the northern boundary, shared with Snohomish County, each of the County's boundaries reflects unique geographic contours. The eastern boundary closely follows the Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail, the crest of the Cascade Range. The White River delineates the County's southern boundary, while the western part of the county faces Puget Sound.



King County contains a wide variety of landforms including saltwater, coastline, river floodplains, plateaus, slopes and mountains, punctuated with lakes and salmon streams. Lake Washington, covering 35 square miles, and Lake Sammamish with eight square miles are the two largest bodies of fresh water. Vashon and Maury Islands in Puget Sound and Mercer Island in Lake Washington provide different island environments. Major rivers include the Snoqualmie, White, Green and Cedar Rivers, which all flow out of the Cascade Mountains through the County.

The western part of the county, where the vast majority of the population has settled, is an alluvial plain near sea level. In the east are the Cascade Mountains. The County only has three vehicular exits to the east: Stevens Pass, Stampede Pass and Snoqualmie Pass. A substantial portion of the eastern King County is in the Mount Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest.

### ***Population and Demographics***

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With more than 1,774,300 people and 29 percent of the state's population, King County is the largest county in Washington, and the 12<sup>th</sup> largest in the nation. It is also the most densely populated area in the state, with 831 people per square mile. As a populous large county with a major central city, King County comprises the majority of the "Seattle-Bellevue-Everett" metropolitan areas.

### *Population Distribution*

It's interesting to note that given the total land area of King County, 2,134 square miles, the majority of the population resides on only 381 square miles of incorporated land or 18 percent of the entire county.

About 75 percent of King County residents, 1,423,176 people, live in incorporated cities and towns; 32 percent live in Seattle alone, the largest City in the Pacific Northwest. The next three largest cities are Bellevue, Federal Way and Kent. During the 1990s there was a strong increase in incorporations and annexations. Among the new cities in the 1990s are Burien, Covington, Kenmore, Maple Valley, Newcastle, Sammamish, Shoreline, and Woodinville.

Unincorporated King County, the territory outside any city, has about 353,000 people or 20 percent of the County's population on 82 percent of its land area. Most of the population resides on the Seattle-sized portion within the Urban Growth Area designated by Growth Management. Unincorporated areas of King County range from urban communities such as White Center, Kingsgate and Fairwood to tiny rural communities, farmland, commercial forest, national forest and wilderness area with almost no residents.

More than 96 percent of the overall population in the County lives in densely settled urbanized areas, with the remaining living in rural settings.

(check population figures and percentages so they match)

### *Population by Age and Sex*

We have an aging population with a median age near 36. According to the 2000 Census, people age 20-64 accounted for the majority of the population, about 67 percent. Young people age 19 and under accounted for 25 percent of the population. Approximately one in ten people living in King County is older than 65.

**Table 3.1: Population by Age**

Age Group	Population	%
0-4	105,321	6.1%
5-19	329,415	18.9%
20-54	978,999	56.4%
55-64	141,527	8.1%
65-84	157,232	9.1%
85+	24,540	1.4%

<b>Total</b>	<b>1,737,034</b>	<b>100%</b>
<i>Source: 2002 King County Annual Growth Report</i>		

The median age for both male and female are very close, age 35.92 for male and 35.08 for female. The number of males and females are proportionally the same, until age of 65 and older where the percentage of females increases significantly over that of males.

**Table 3.2: Population by Sex**

Age Group	Male Population	%	Female Population	%
0-19	223,886	25.6%	213,038	24.1%
20-54	501,873	57.3%	488,593	55.3%
55-64	73,232	8.3%	74,039	8.4%
65-84	68,452	7.8%	89,686	10.2%
85+	7,697	1.0%	17,805	2.0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>875,140</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>883,160</b>	<b>100%</b>
<i>Source: Washington State Office of Financial Management</i>				

### Households

King County has 710,900 households, an increase of 95,000 since 1990. The average household size is 2.39, and while household size in some Eastside communities continue to decline, it remains stable in Seattle and is actually increasing in some South County communities. The majority of households, 584,974 (82.3%) are located within cities and 125,942 (17.7%) households are located in unincorporated areas.

The county has more single person households than family households consisting of a married couple with children. The number of married couples without children exceeds the number of married couples with children. Single parent households represent a smaller percentage of the population in King County than nationally – and smaller in Seattle than in the suburbs.

**Table 3.3: Households**

Household Types	Number of Households	%
Married with children	150,60	
Married, no children	179,20	
Single Parents, other family	90,20	
Single-person	217,20	

households		
Other households	73,80	
<b>Total</b>	<b>710,90</b>	
<i>Source: 2002 King County Annual Growth Report</i>		

(Need to look at website and see what ending numbers are, then do percentages)

### *Cultural Diversity*

King County exhibits growing diversity; its racial and ethnic characteristics shifting significantly in the last ten years. Over 25 percent of the County's population is now comprised of people of color or different ethnic groups. The County is also more ethnically diverse than the state as a whole.

According to the 2000 Census, ethnic diversity has increased from 16.7 percent in 1990 to 27 percent in 2000. During this period the Hispanic or Latino population more than doubled to 95,000 persons making up 5.5 percent of the population. The Asian population has increased about 70 percent to 187,000 persons, accounting for 10.7 percent of the population. The Non-Hispanic White population is the slowest growing racial group. The African-American population has been growing less rapidly, about 23 percent over the last ten years, and the Native American population has remained about the same.

**Table 3.4: Cultural Diversity**

Ethnic Category	Population	%
Non-Hispanic White	1,275,127	73.4%
Asian	186,615	10.7%
Hispanic	95,242	5.5%
Black or African American	91,798	5.3%
Pacific Islander	8,737	0.5%
Native American	14,278	0.8%
Other	4,577	0.3%
Two or more races	60,660	3.5%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,737,034</b>	<b>100%</b>
<i>Source: 2002 King County Annual Growth Report</i>		

(These figures are very different from the ones Joan Maza provided. Need to know exactly who's counted in which classification.)

While Seattle is somewhat diverse, the dispersion of persons of color outside Seattle presents some interesting trends. Bellevue has the highest percentage of Asian population. South King County is experiencing the most dramatic increase in diversity, with minority populations doubling and tripling in several communities. Tukwila has the largest percentage of minorities, 46 percent. Burien, Sea Tac and Federal Way have large Pacific

Island communities as well as black, Latino and Asian populations. Countywide, the foreign-born population has nearly doubled to 268,000 people or 15 percent of the population. Immigrants to King County have come from literally all over the world, with Mexico, China, Vietnam, and the Philippines sending the most people in the last ten years. King County also has 7,200 residents from the Ukraine and 5,500 from Russia – both significant increases in the last decade.

Approximately 63,000 persons over the age of five (3.9 percent of the population) do not speak English well or at all. Almost half of this linguistically isolated population speaks Asian or Pacific Island languages, including Chinese, Vietnamese, Tagalog and Korean. The diversity of European languages also increased greatly, especially Russian and Spanish.

Nearly one in five King County residents does not speak English as their primary language at home, and about eight percent speak English less than well. Asian-Pacific Islanders may have language barriers more than other minority people groups.

#### *People with Disabilities*

About 15 percent of working-age adults in King County have a disability that does not require them to be institutionalized, and about two in three are employed. About two of every five people of retirement age have some type of disability.

**Table 3.5: Non-Institutionalized Disabled Population**

21 to 64 Years		65 Years and Older
% of Population	% Employed	% of Population
15.1%	62.6%	39.8%
Source: 2003 Washington State Mitigation Plan - U.S. Census Bureau, Profile of Selected Characteristics: 2000		

(Need more data on overall disability rates and types of disabilities.)

#### *Population Growth and Future Trends*

The County has been growing less in comparison to the state as a whole. The County is a large and mature county that saw rapid growth during earlier periods. In the last decade, King County's population has grown by 15 percent, a modest rate compared to other areas and nearby Puget Sound counties. However, given the large population already here, the growth numbers are significant. The increase in population since 1990 – 230,000 people – is equivalent to the total current population of the cities of

Bellevue, Federal Way and Sammamish together. Just over one-third of this growth is due to people moving into the County.

South King County has experienced the biggest share of the County's growth, more than half, and the south remains the largest of three sub areas with more than 630,000 residents. Rural areas of the County have grown at relatively slow rates.

Net population migration is a major contributor to population change, and typically varies as a result of changing economic conditions. King County is forecasted to grow by an additional 140,000 persons, eight percent, to about 1,875,000 in 2012.

[Where is the growth expected to occur?](#)

## ***Geopolitical Jurisdictions***

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## ***Economy***

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### *Employment*

King County is a nationally important market, with the ninth largest number of jobs among the nation's 3,100 counties, and a year 2000 payroll of \$54 billion, ranking 8<sup>th</sup> in the nation.

Employment growth is a driver of King County's population and housing growth. More than 1.1 million workers are employed within the borders of King County, at nearly 65,000 business establishments. With more than 40 percent of Washington State's jobs and payroll, the County is truly the economic engine of Washington and the Pacific Northwest. The County's economy is larger than that of several US states.

In 2000, King County had 43 percent of Washington jobs, but only 29 percent of the population and 30 percent of the housing units. During the 1990s, the number of jobs grew faster than population and housing. Most of these workers live in King County, but an increasing number commute in from Snohomish, Pierce and other counties.

Although King County contains only three percent of the state's land area, it is large and diverse with many different job centers. Manufacturing and warehousing dominate in South Seattle and South King County. High tech industries are located mostly in Seattle and the Eastside. Services and retail are located throughout the County.

**Table : Non-Agricultural Wage and Salary Jobs – 2001**

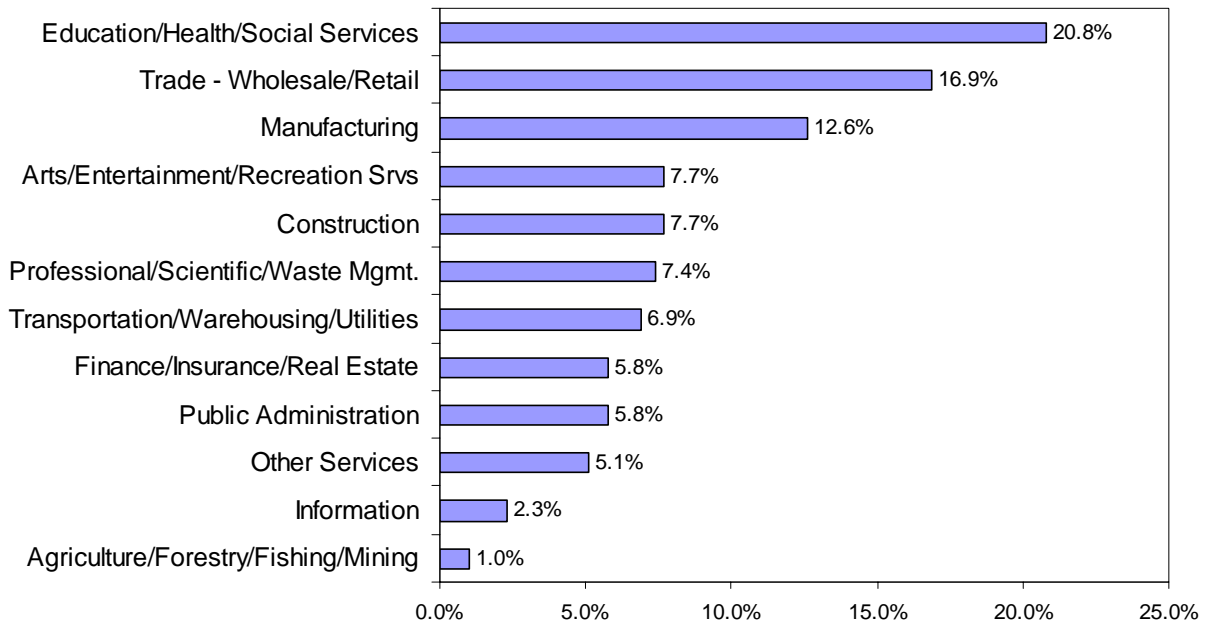
Industry	Number of Jobs	%
Services	379,500	32.4%
Wholesale/Retail	271,900	23.2%
Government	157,400	13.4%
Manufacturing		
-Transportation Equip.	59,000	5.0%
-Other Manufacturing	82,900	7.0%
Transportation/Public Utilities	80,900	7.0%
Finance/Insurance/Real Estate	76,400	6.5%
Construction	63,000	5.4%
Mining and Misc.	500	
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,171,400</b>	<b>100%</b>
<i>Source: 2003 King County Annual Growth Report, Washington State Employment Security Department</i>		

(Check above figures, they add up to 1,171,500 in this table and the one in the annual growth report. Then redo percentages. Try to meld that info (not as interesting) with the State's graph which is more interesting.)

The economy of King County is diverse, though more heavily dependent on the services and trade sectors than the state as a whole. Figure : below, provides a profile of employment in various economic segments in King County.

**Figure 3-1: Employment by Industry**

~ Draft ~



Source: 2003 Washington Hazard Mitigation Plan - U.S. Census Bureau, Profile of Selected Economic Characteristics: 2000

(Following is based on figure 1: Check with the 2002 AGR chart; they're different).

The services sector is the largest in the county's economy, with 31 percent of employment. It has been the fastest growing sector since 1970; almost half of all new jobs in King County from 1994 to 1999 (91,100 jobs) were in services. Major sectors within this category include business services and health care services. Some of the highest paid workers in the County are in the services sector, as well as some of the lowest paid workers. However, the bulk of job growth in recent years has been in the higher paid jobs, primarily in the software industry. In fact, our region is ranked fifth in the nation for concentration of high tech businesses.

Trade, with 27 percent of all employment is the second largest sector in King County; it has the lowest average wage. Eating and drinking establishments employ the largest share of workers.

Fifteen percent of the county's employment base is in manufacturing. Transportation equipment is the largest industry in the sector; the bulk of employment, 79 percent, is in aircraft production. Manufacturing is diversifying, especially in advanced technology much of which has occurred in the Interstate-5/Interstate-405 corridor. After transportation equipment, food and kindred products is the next largest industry, with printing and publishing, and industrial machinery/computer equipment following. [Kindred Products?](#)



About 7.6 percent of the County's jobs are in the transportation and public utilities sector. More than half of the State's jobs in this sector are in the County, primarily due to activities at the Port of Seattle and SeaTac International Airport. The County is also home to the television media that services most of western Washington.

As a regional finance and insurance hub, King County's employment in the finance, insurance, and real estate sector is larger than the rest of the State. In 1999 the County had 54 percent of all statewide employees in this sector. The state's banking and insurance industries are primarily headquartered in Seattle as are most security and commodity brokers and holding companies and investment firms.

Approximately 5.8 percent of the jobs in King County are in the public sector. There are about 80,000 employees at the local government level and primary employers are K-12 school districts. King County Government employs \_\_\_\_ people. Cities, including Seattle the largest municipal employer, employ a total of \_\_\_\_ people. State Government provides another 41,000 jobs, with employment driven primarily by the University of Washington and eleven community colleges. The federal government employs 21,291 people; almost one-third of its employment is in the postal service. [Double check this figure – different than the County's.](#)

Major businesses and employers in King County include:

- Bank of American
- Boeing Company
- Bon-Macy's
- City of Seattle
- Evergreen Healthcare
- Fred Meyer
- Group Health Co-operative
- King County Government
- Providence Health System
- QFC
- Qwest Communications
- Safeway Stores Inc.
- Seattle School District #1
- Swedish Hospital
- United States Postal Service
- University of Washington

Top companies with headquarters located in King County:

- Airborne Express\*
- Alaska Airlines
- Amazon.com
- AT & T Wireless
- Attachmate
- Costco\*
- Microsoft\*
- Nintendo
- Nordstrom\*
- Paccar\*
- Phillips Medical Systems
- REI
- Safeco\*
- Starbucks
- Washington Mutual Bank
- Western Wireless
- Weyerhaeuser\*

\*Fortune 500 Companies

### *International Trade*

Washington State exceeded \$46 billion in foreign exports in 2001. Nearly three-quarters of Washington exports are coming from the central Puget Sound region. Two-way trade through Seattle involves more than 100 countries and amounted to over \$106 billion in 1999. As a result, the economy is extremely dependent upon foreign trade. International trade (directly and indirectly) supports 740,000 jobs annually. One in three jobs in Washington State is involved in foreign exports. While the State represents about 2% of the nation's population, its ports handle 7 percent of all U.S. exports and receives a 6 percent share of the nation's imports.

King County has evolved from a resource-based economy centered principally in forest products manufacturing, into an increasing diversified export base with significant orientation in high tech industry, services, and trade serving broad national and worldwide markets. Increasingly greater exports of finished goods and services originating in King County, such as commercial aircraft and computer software, are exported overseas, particularly to Europe and the Far East. In addition to the major producers, Boeing Aerospace and Microsoft, new industry is developing in special market niches with high-growth market potential such as computer software and biotechnology. Other top exports include industrial machinery, electric machinery, cereals, medical or surgical equipment, grains/seeds/fruits, wood and wood products, paper products, fish and mineral fuel.

The top imports into Washington include high technology, forest products, motor vehicles, motor vehicle parts, airplane engines, games, aircraft parts, petroleum gases, toys, office machine parts. ([Maybe a little more narrative on imports.](#))

Our top ten trading partners include Japan, Korea, Singapore, Germany, China, Taiwan, UK, France, Canada and Saudi Arabia.

### *Income and Wages*

King County is the strongest driver of the statewide average income due to its large population and highly paid high-tech and aerospace industries. Seattle is the regional industrial and commercial hub; headquarter offices of a large number of firms are located here and workers tend to have higher wages than others do around the state. Some of that difference also reflects high tech jobs on the Eastside as well as high wage manufacturing jobs in South King County. All of King County's economic sectors have higher salaries than that for the state, on average 14% higher.

In 2002, the median household income was \$65,400 largest in the state and well above national medians. This figure represents the point where half of all households have a higher income, and half have a lower income. The median, however, does not portray the breadth of income distribution. More than one-third of King County households report an income more than \$75,000, and almost one-third report incomes under \$35,000. Every community and every ethnic group has households with high and low incomes. However, there is still some income disparity by race.

### *Unemployment*

Unemployment was at historic lows near 3% for several years, but the King County economy remains quite cyclical. Although unemployment has increased to about 6.2 percent as of June 2002, many businesses continue to suffer from a labor shortage. This level is no worse than the historical average.

### *Construction*

Residential and commercial construction in the County continues to coast upward. Several large office complexes are underway in Bellevue, Seattle and Redmond. Record numbers of new housing units were authorized in Seattle in the last couple years - more than 6,500 new houses, apartments and condo units.

Bellevue, Seattle, Renton and other downtown or urban center develops are exhibiting healthy growth.

*(Maybe relocate this section, or get more data, especially on the county as a whole.)*

### *Poverty*

About 8.4 percent or 142,500 of the people in King County live in poverty, considerably less than the 12.4 percent national rate, and slightly lower than the 10.6 percent rate in Washington State. An additional 192,000 people reported incomes below 200% of the official poverty thresholds, still a very low income. Approximately 9.4 percent of this group are children under the age of 18, and 7.4 percent are adults over age 65. These numbers likely increased during the recent recession; however there is no current measure available.

**Table: Poverty Rates**

% of Total Population	Children under 18	Over age 65
8.4%	9.4%	7.4%
<i>Source: 2003 Washington State Hazard Mitigation Plan - U.S. Census Bureau of Selected Economic Characteristics: 2000</i>		

(Any socioeconomic breakdown?)

### *Future Trends*

King County's economy remains strong despite severe shocks resulting from recent key events. In February 2001, a 6.8 magnitude earthquake hit the Puget Sound region, causing significant damage and related costs that are still mounting. The following month, Boeing announced it would be moving their headquarters. As of mid-2002 Boeing our major aerospace employer, laid off a significant number of employees, many in the Puget Sound region. As a region and a nation, everyone felt directly and indirectly the impacts of the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks.

Manufacturing remains strong despite the ups and downs of the aerospace industry. Although the aerospace industry is well below its record employment levels, they continue to provide high wages to local workers. The computer services industry now employs as many as aerospace, although it too has lost ground. The composition of the economy is shifting from the traditional manufacturing and resources bases to high tech, services and trade, both local and international.

Long range prospects are mixed. The move of the Boeing headquarters provides some uncertainty in the aerospace industry. Sales tax and other government revenues are declining at a time when public investment is needed. The County is doing well so far, but these underlying issues are not addressed there could be underlying consequences to King County and Puget Sound.

### ***Transportation***

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### ***Emergency Services***

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Note: This section is still being worked on.

King County is the home to numerous professional emergency service organizations. These services include police, fire, emergency medical services (EMS), hospitals, 9-1-1 communication centers, search and rescue, emergency management and urban search and rescue resources. The operations and standards to which these agencies perform are dictated by State and Federal Laws, national standards and local agreements.

#### *Fire Services*

There are 43 public fire agencies in King County. These fire services are organized into three zones. Roughly, Fire Zone 1 consists of the area north of I-90 to the Snohomish County line (excluding the City of Seattle), Zone 3 includes Vashon Island and the area south of I-90 (excluding the City of Seattle) and Zone 5 is the City of Seattle. Operationally, there are two different types of fire organizations, departments which provide services directly to cities, and districts governed their own commissioners. There are 28 fire districts and 15 fire departments in King County. In addition to public fire agencies, several private corporations maintain fire and/or emergency response personnel. Examples are the Weyerhaeuser Corporation and the Boeing Company. Statistics indicate 70% of all 9-1-1 calls for fire assistance are for medical aid calls. Fire personnel are a mixture of paid professionals, resident volunteers, and volunteers.

[\(get more statistics on breakdown of calls – fires, hazardous materials, rescue\).](#)

**Mutual Aid:** The fire services in Washington State and King County have long operated under informal mutual aid agreements. In many [\(or most or all in KC?\)](#) cases, these agreements have been formalized and documented. An extension of these mutual aid arrangements was the creation of a Regional and State Fire Mobilization Plan. This operational document provided a framework for the movement and distribution of fire resources statewide. The State Fire Mobilization Plan also addresses reimbursement for agencies working outside their jurisdiction for extended periods of time above accepted mutual aid assistance. A mobilization of regional or state resources may be requested for events that overwhelm the impacted jurisdiction and/or are expected to exceed eight (8) hours in duration.

**Special Teams:** In addition to fire suppression, many King County Fire Agencies provide several specialty services. These include: hazardous materials response teams, aquatic dive teams, confined space rescue, high angle rescue and wild land fire teams. There are 8 hazardous materials teams\*, 4 dive teams, 1 confined space team, 2 wild land teams and 1 high angle rescue team. All teams train to OSHA, WISHA and NFPA training standards. All fire fighters in Washington State are required to be trained in Hazardous Materials Response at the Operations Level. Hazmat Teams in King County are comprised of 6 technician trained personnel, 6 operations trained personnel and one trained incident commander. Many fire personnel also participate in the Washington State Urban Search and Rescue Taskforce 1. Other specialty services provided by fire agencies include arson investigation, public education, and emergency management functions. Seattle Fire Department maintains multiple marine fire units, ALS (Advanced Life Support). Bellevue Fire also has some ALS resources.

**Fire Training and Standards:** All paid and volunteer fire service personnel adhere to NFPA (training) standards.

**Fire Codes and Standards:** The Uniform Fire Code (fire and life safety mitigation and maintenance regulations) is adopted by State and individual jurisdictions. Enforcement of the Uniform Fire Code (UFC) is conducted by the King County Fire Marshal's Office in many fire districts and by jurisdiction fire professionals in the fire departments and some fire districts.

**Funding Fire Services:** Public sector fire departments are funded by city taxing authority but fire districts are junior taxing districts that are supported by tax levies, bonds and benefit service charges.

Some training support is available from state and federal sources.

Currently, substantial support is being received from the US Dept of Homeland Security for equipment related to counter-terrorism efforts. Approximately \$4 million has been made available since 1998.

\*King County Hazardous Materials Teams – Seattle Fire, Port of Seattle Fire, Tukwila Fire, Federal Way Fire District #39, Auburn Fire, Kent Fire, Renton Fire, and Bellevue/Eastside Fire.

**Major Fire Service Events:** Major fire events in King County include the Mary Pang Fire in Seattle, Blackstock Fire, Chem Central Fire, and State Fire Mobilization for the Chelan Fires and Spokane Fires. The first preemptive implementation of the State Fire Mobilization Plan was conducted for the World Trade Organization (WTO) Event in 1999. [\(Put in HIVA\)](#)

**Fire Service Trends:** For economic and operational reasons, the fire districts and fire zones in King County have continued to consolidate. Fire Zones 1 and 2 consolidated in 1997 and Fire Zones 3 and 4 consolidated in 2003. There are increasingly common examples of fire departments and fire districts consolidating administrative functions. Dispatch for fire response seems to be following this general trend.

National and local fire statistics indicate that the that the utilization of building and zoning codes has dramatically reduced the number of structural fires in King County.

## *Police*

**Law Enforcement in King County:** There are 25 law enforcement agencies in King County. These include 23 departments associated with cities, one with the University of Washington and the King County Sheriff's Office. The King County Sheriff's Office provides police services to unincorporated King County and to cities that have contracted for service. Under state law, the King County Sheriff's Office is the agency designated with Search and Rescue responsibilities.

**Law Enforcement Operations:** Until recently, police agencies did not have an operational mechanism similar to the mutual aid concept used by the fire service. Efforts to draft a law enforcement mobilization plan at the state level being developed. Typically, police mutual aid has been informally conducted by small units in what is called automatic aid.

**Specialty Law Enforcement Services:** Like the fire service, many law enforcement agencies provide specialty services. SWAT (Special Weapons And Tactics) teams are available through the King County Sheriff's Office, Seattle Police, Valley SWAT (multi-agency cooperative), and Bellevue/Eastside Police. Bomb Disposal Units are provided by King County Sheriff's Office, the Port of Seattle, Federal Way, Bellevue and the City of Seattle. Seattle Police, Mercer Island Police Services, and King County Sheriff's Office maintain Marine Units. Several agencies use K9 units and the King County Sheriff's Office has the only helicopter unit in service. Both Seattle Police and the King County Sheriff's Office Special Operations Units provide dignitary protection for significant government officials.

**Law Enforcement Training:** All police officers are graduates of the local academy per RCW 43.101.350 requirements.

**Funding Law Enforcement:** King County Law Enforcement agencies are funded under the taxing authority of the cities and King County. Currently, the US Department of Homeland Security has provided significant funding toward equipment, training and exercises associated with counter terrorism.

#### Major Law Enforcement Events

The World Trade Organization (WTO) meeting in Seattle in 1999 resulted in civil unrest, demonstrations, vandalism and some violence. Many out of state and local activists were arrested during several days of protests. Substantial damage was done to businesses and public property. Law Enforcement assistance was provided to the Seattle Police Department by Washington State Patrol, Pierce County Sheriff's Office, and King County Sheriff's Office Deputies.

#### Law Enforcement Trends

There is a continuing trend toward autonomy of law enforcement services with increased cooperation and sharing of resources and information. Some small cities continue to contract police services.

#### Search and Rescue (SAR)

##### SAR Operations

By Washington State Law (RCW 38.52.400), the Sheriff's Office in each county is responsible for Search and Rescue (SAR) Operations. In King County, the SAR unit is managed by uniformed 1 fulltime deputy and 18



deputies as ancillary duties but largely is conducted by 10 volunteer units. Over 760 volunteers participate in Search and Rescue activities. Examples of these units are: 4X4, Trackers, Search Dogs, SPART (Ski Patrol and Rescue Team).

Volunteers operating on SAR Missions are registered emergency workers (WAC 118-04) and are covered for injuries and liability under Washington State issued training or event mission numbers. The KCSO Air Unit supports SAR Missions.

#### Major Search and Rescue Events

Members of several SAR units have participated in evidence searches conducted as part of the Green River Killer investigation. In 2002, 132 searches were conducted for missing seniors, skiers, injured hikers, missing aircraft, and missing persons.

#### Funding

Much of Search and Rescue is funded by donations. Some equipment is purchased and maintained by the King County Sheriff's Office. Funding for a fulltime sheriff's deputy is provided to manage and over see the volunteer units and operations.

#### SAR Trends

Some special units provide resources in mutual aid to other counties in the state of Washington Puget Sound. There appears to be no change in the reliance on volunteer units for this labor intensive service.

### *Public Health, EMS*

The Seattle-King County Department of Public Health is a jointly operated agency covering the cities and unincorporated areas of King County. A wide range of services are provided to citizens of King County ranging from food service inspections and clinics, to epidemiological and medical examiner's office responsibilities. Medic One (Advanced Life Support – ALS) is a part of the Public Health Department, Emergency Medical Service (EMS).

Public Health Emergency Operations: The top official in the Seattle-King County Department of Public Health (SKDPH) is empowered by state law as the lead authority for health related emergencies. These health related emergencies may extend from water supply issues and out breaks of the flu, to immunization and biological terrorist agents. The Medical Examiner's Office is operated under the SKDPH

#### Funding

The majority of funding for Public Health Emergency Operations comes from general taxes. Some funding is currently being made available through the US



Department of Homeland Security as pass through grants at the local level and from EMS fee for service. Additional support has been available the US Department of Health and Human Services.

#### Major Public Health Events

In the last two years several public health issues have come to the broad public's attention. The anthrax attacks in the eastern United States produced multiple fatalities and considerable public concern. White Powder scares created problems from coast to coast for more than a year. Cases of white powders continue to occur in King County. The perceived vulnerability of the US population to biological attack continues to have the attention of local, state and federal public health officials.

Not all public health concerns are terrorism oriented. The mosquito borne West Nile Virus continues to be of concern during summer months. SARS was front page news for many months with institution of quarantines in Canada. Seattle cruise lines and airlines continue to struggle with outbreaks of the Norwalk Virus. Public Health and Agricultural officials have had to manage public response to fears of Mad Cow Disease. All are significant to public health officials.

EMS participated in a Mass Casualty incident that transported 128 patients to local hospitals. The management of the incident, a hazardous materials release at the Boeing, Auburn Plant, received regional acclaim.

#### Public Health Emergency Trends

SKPHD has recently increased its commitment to emergency operations related to public health emergencies with the hiring of multiple emergency management and planning personnel. Grants and priorities are commonly being directed at planning for response to health emergencies and protecting the public's confidence in the health care system. A continuation of this trend is expected for the near term future.

#### *Hospitals – Emergency Care*

There are 22 licensed hospitals in King County. Of these, three are public hospitals – the others are private or non-profit institutions. All are subject to JCAHO requirements for capability maintenance and training. Most hospitals participate in annual National Disaster Medical System (NDMS) exercises and several participated in the international counter terrorism exercise, TOPOFF 2. Of the 22 hospitals, one (Harborview) is listed as a Level 1 Trauma Care facility, three are listed as Level 3 Trauma Care Facilities and four are listed as Level 4 Trauma Care Facilities.

#### Hospital Operations

Local hospital operations have their own system for managing hospital resources during emergencies. For local emergencies, Harborview Hospital acts as a central control for the distribution of patients during a mass casualty incident or health emergency. This Hospital Control monitors unusual numbers of symptomatic patients, bed counts (occupancy), and the distribution of patients being transported by aid units. The region has had a Mass Casualty Plan (MCI) since 1995 having made revisions to the plan as operations have dictated. Harborview is a King County facility operated by the University of Washington. Evergreen Hospital, Overlake Hospital and Harborview Hospital have ALS programs.

#### Funding

The 22 hospitals in King County are all funded in different ways. Some public facilities receive grant awards, other private facilities depend on fee for service support. Many of the local hospitals are US Department of Homeland Security grant recipients for equipment related to counter terrorism efforts.

#### Major Hospital Events

The largest event in recent history was the management of 128 patients from the Boeing Auburn hazardous materials release in 1995. The Mass Casualty Plan in place at the time worked very well as did the Hospital Control supported distribution of patients.

The only other event with a significant hospital impact was the December 1996 snow storm that restricted patient and staff access to hospital locations for 11 days.

#### Hospital Trends

Hospitals are acknowledged as vulnerable to terrorist attack because of their open-door policies. For this reason, they are increasingly being incorporated into counter terrorism planning, training, exercise and equipment grants.

### *USAR (Urban Search and Rescue)*

The Washington State Urban Search and Rescue Taskforce 1 is comprised of fire, police, EMS and hospital professionals from the City of Seattle, King County and Pierce County. The taskforce has three 'platoons' that are available for deployment at anytime.

#### USAR Operations

The Washington State USAR Taskforce 1 maintains a cache of materials and equipment to support self-sufficient operation anywhere in the world. The taskforce is able to muster its members, load and depart within 72 hours. The team has typically used McCord Airforce Base in Lakewood/Parkland, Washington as their departure point.

### USAR Funding

The local USAR Taskforce gets its funding from FEMA and local contributions.

### Major USAR Events

The Washington State Taskforce has been deployed to the Atlanta and Salt Lake Olympics, Northridge Earthquake, Twin Trade Towers – NYC, Oklahoma City Bombing, Guam, and Hurricanes impacting the Gulf States.

### USAR Trends

Natural disasters continue to be a part of the Taskforce's deployment expectations. The taskforce continues to train and prepare for events that may include response to terrorist attacks.

## *Emergency Management*

State Law (RCW 38.52) requires every political jurisdiction in Washington State to have a designated emergency manager and a plan on file with the Washington State Military Department, Emergency Management Division. WAC 118-40 requires every county to have a Local Emergency Planning Committee for hazardous materials release planning. Some small cities have formed cooperative arrangements for emergency management (ESCA – Emergency Services Coordinating Agency). In many cases, the fire chief has the added duties of emergency manager. In a few cases, the emergency manager is the public works director (Tukwila, Woodinville and Federal Way). Larger cities (Seattle, Bellevue, Redmond, Mercer Island, and Kent) have fulltime emergency management professionals.

### Emergency Operations

Very few cities have dedicated locations for the coordination and management of emergency operations. Most do not have dedicated space for emergency operations but convert existing space and existing resources to emergency uses. Many jurisdictions have become signatories to the Regional (Response) Plan and are participants in this Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan as well. In an effort to economize and coordinate, Zone 3 would send discipline representatives (fire, police, public works, etc.) to the King County Emergency Coordination Center in Renton. Mutual aid agreements exist between many agencies in Puget Sound for exchanging emergency management personnel when they are needed and available.

### Emergency Management Funding

The majority of the funds supporting emergency management come from the general tax fund of local jurisdictions. This support is augmented by FEMA State and Local Assistance grants, exercise, planning, and training grants.

### Major Emergency Events

Since 1980, King County has been the scene of many presidential declared disasters. The eruption of Mt. St. Helens, numerous flooding events, the Inaugural Day Windstorm in 1993, the Nisqually Earthquake in 2001, the ice/snow storm of 1996-7, and mudslides in 1997. Other major events that did not become presidential disasters included WTO (1999) and the Chelan Fires (1994). Emergency Operations/Coordination Centers have been activated numerous times for smaller events ranging from wildfires and minor flooding to the 2000 year rollover.

#### Emergency Management Trends

With an ever increasing amount of land development, more and more property is at risk from natural, manmade and terrorist incidents. The future is likely to continue to provide these and new challenges to emergency management professionals, responders, citizens, and elected officials.

#### *9-1-1 Emergency Communications*

There are 16 public service answering points (PSAPs) in King County. The largest of these are:

- Bellevue Eastside Dispatch
- Valley Communications
- King County Sheriff's Office Communications
- Washington State Police Dispatch
- City of Seattle Dispatch

#### Call Receivers and Dispatch Operations

Many smaller 911 centers receive calls for smaller areas and for only fire or only police services. The King County Sheriff's Office Dispatch has recently collocated their operations with the King County Office of Emergency Management and the King County Emergency Coordination Center in Renton. Continued consolidation of fire agencies has paralleled the consolidation of PSAP operations, particularly in Zone 3. The PSAPs offer 24 hour coverage for emergencies and dissemination of Emergency Alert System (EAS) messages when needed off business hours. The King County Sheriff's Office 911 center provides a backup capability for Valley Communications. The Sheriff's Office backup is a decentralized system based at the precincts (PBEC) precinct based emergency communications.

#### 911 Funding

Funding for 911 centers is varied and based on the local jurisdictions. Training and administrative support is centralized in the E-911 Office, part of the King County Office of Emergency Management. This support is derived from small fees on local phone bills.

#### Major Events Impacting 911 Operations

Only once was a 911 center directly impacted by an event. The Nisqually earthquake resulted in a temporary relocation of the Sheriff's Dispatch Operations to the PBECs. Some impairment of operations was experienced during WTO for staff coming and going to their work locations.

#### 911 Trends

There is a good likelihood that economics will continue to consolidate the PSAPs into fewer operations. Locations that are defensible from civil unrest and hardened to terrorist attack are likely.

### ***Education***

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### ***Resources***

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### ***Land Use***

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### ***Environmental***

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### ***Trends and Growth***

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### ***Mitigation Standards and Codes***

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